

PROPOSED COUNCIL STUDY ISSUE

For Calendar Year: 2004

Continuing ☐

New ☒

Previous Year (below line/defer) ☐

Issue: Update of the tree preservation code for private property

Lead Department: Community Development Department

General Plan Element or Sub-Element: Land Use and Transportation Element

1. What are the key elements of the issue? What precipitated it?

It has been approximately 10 years since the City adopted its criteria and process for evaluating tree removal on private property. The City processes 300-350 tree removal permits per year. Approximately 10 tree removal permit appeals are heard by the Planning Commission each year. In addition staff follows up on potential destruction and removal cases where the property owner has not acquired a Tree Removal Permit. Current codes require taking a property owner to court when there has been a violation. Due to the cumbersome process Community development staff and the Office of the City Attorney have developed practices to replace the value of the lost tree through other means.

The study would review current practices, conduct a survey of neighboring cities and model ordinances and determine recommended changes to Sunnyvale's practices. The timeliness of this issue as well as the need to reevaluate the City's criteria and commitment to the tree preservation effort was identified by the Planning Commission.

2. How does this relate to the General Plan or existing City Policy?

Land Use and Transportation Element

Goal C: Preserve and enhance an attractive community, with a positive image and a sense of place, that consists of distinctive neighborhoods, pockets of interest, and human-scaled development.

Community Design Sub-Element

Goal A: Promote Sunnyvale's image by maintaining, enhancing and creating physical features which distinguish Sunnyvale from surrounding communities and by preserving historic buildings, special districts and residential neighborhoods which make the City unique.

3. Origin of issue:

Councilmember: _____

General Plan: _____

Staff: _____

BOARD or COMMISSION

Arts	<input type="checkbox"/>	Library	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bldg. Code of Appeals	<input type="checkbox"/>	Parks & Rec.	<input type="checkbox"/>
CCAB	<input type="checkbox"/>	Personnel	<input type="checkbox"/>
Heritage & Preservation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Planning	X
Housing & Human Svcs	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Board / Commission Ranking/Comment:

Planning Board / Commission ranked _____ of _____
 Commission

4. Due date for Continuing and Mandatory issues (if known): _____

5. Multiple Year Project? Yes ☐ No **X** Expected Year of Completion 2004

6. Estimated work hours for completion of the study issue.

(a) Estimated work hours from the lead department 250

(b) Estimated work hours from consultant(s): _____

(c) Estimated work hours from the City Attorney's Office: 30

(d) List any other department(s) and number of work hours:

Department(s): Public Works 100Total Estimated Hours: 345

7. Expected participation involved in the study issue process?

(a) Does Council need to approve a work plan? Yes ☐ No **X**

(b) Does this issue require review by a Board/Commission?

Yes X No ☐

If so, which Board/Commission? Planning
Commission

(c) Is a Council Study Session anticipated?

Yes ☐ No X

(d) What is the public participation process?

In addition to standards hearing noticing practices, staff will conduct outreach to the community and to commercial tree removal companies and arborists in the Sunnyvale vicinity.

8. Estimated Fiscal Impact:

Cost of Study	\$
Capital Budget Costs	\$
New Annual Operating Costs	\$
New Revenues or Savings	\$
10 Year RAP Total	\$

9. Staff Recommendation

- ☐ Recommended for Study
☐ Against Study
X No Recommendation

Explain below staff's recommendation if "for" or "against" study. Department director should also note the relative importance of this study to other major projects that the department is currently working on or that are soon to begin, and the impact on existing services/priorities.

Reviewed by

Department Director

Date

Approved by

City Manager

Date